

Attorney Docket No.: FMCE-P145

In the Drawings:

Please replace the previously submitted Replacement Sheet 1 of the drawings with the enclosed Replacement Sheet 1. In the new Replacement Sheet 1, Figure 1 has been replaced with a clearer version of itself.

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Remarks

This amendment is being presented in order to place the application in better form for appeal. Therefore, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because the elements in Figure 1 are not clearly distinguishable. Figure 1 has accordingly been replaced by a new drawing. Entry of this drawing amendment is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicants' Interview Summary:

A telephone interview between the applicants' attorney and the Examiner was conducted on December 10, 2009. As reported by the Examiner in the Final Office Action, the Examiner asked applicants' attorney to identify the core novelty of the invention. In response to this request, applicants' attorney stated that the novelty of the invention lies in the combination of the elements recited in the claims. The Examiner then requested that the interview be continued to the following day so that the Examiner's supervisor could participate.

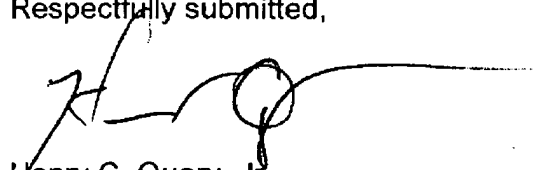
Accordingly, a telephone interview between the applicants' attorney, the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Alford Kindred, took place on December 11, 2009. During this interview applicants' attorney was asked to distinguish the claimed invention from Sitte (U.S. Patent No. 5,469,150). In response to this request, applicants' attorney explained that, although Sitte discloses a junction 20, none of the devices connected to this junction (i.e.,

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devices 22, 26, 30 and 34) comprises a bus controller having a unique address. Consequently, these devices cannot be identified by the main controller 12.

Applicants' attorney further stated that another difference between the claimed invention and Sitte is that Sitte does not disclose a cable having a plurality of branch cables which are each connected between the junction and a corresponding electrical connector that in turn is removably connectable to one of the devices. Applicants' attorney explained that Sitte does not disclose how the devices 22, 26, 30, 34 are connected to the junction, and that to assume they are connected in a particular manner is sheer speculation. Applicants' attorney also pointed out that, since these devices are not smart devices, they are not connected as shown in Figure 11 because Figure 11 only illustrates the connection of a "smart" device to the cable unit.

Respectfully submitted,



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